

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-7: Canceled.

5 Claim 8. (Original) A method for producing a cellulose fiber product resistant to biological degradation which comprises:

 providing a cellulose fiber derived from wood that has been at least partially purified by a chemical pulping process;

 treating the fiber so that it contains a biocidally effective amount of a biocidal
10 composition selected from the group consisting of didecyldimethylammonium chloride, didecyldimethylammonium bromide and mixtures thereof; and
 drying the treated fiber.

 Claim 9. (Original) The method of Claim 8 in which the fiber is also treated to contain 0.01-0.25% of a water soluble copper salt.

15 Claim 10. (Original) The method of Claim 8 in which the didecyldimethylammonium chloride, didecyldimethylammonium bromide or mixture thereof is present in the fiber in an amount of 0.1-2.0% by weight of dry fiber.

 Claim 11. (Original) The method of Claims 8 or 9 in which the biocidal composition is the didecyldimethylammonium chloride.

20 Claim 12. (Original) The method of Claims 8 or 9 in which the biocidal composition is the didecyldimethylammonium bromide.

Claim 13. (Original) The method of Claims 8 or 9 in which the cellulose fiber is an unbleached kraft fiber.

Claims 14-17: Canceled.

Claim 18. (Original) A method for producing a cellulose fiber product resistant to biological degradation which comprises:

providing a wood-derived cellulose fiber derived from wood that has been at least partially purified by a chemical pulping process;

treating the fiber so that it contains a biocidally effective amount of a water soluble copper salt to obtain a copper content in the fiber in the range from 0.01-0.25% by weight of the fiber; and

drying the treated fiber.

Claim 19. (Original) The method of Claim 18 which further includes in combination with the copper salt a biocidally effective amount of a compound selected from the group consisting of didecyldimethylammonium chloride, didecyldimethylammonium bromide and mixtures thereof.

Claim 20. (Original) The method of Claim 19 in which the didecyldimethylammonium chloride, didecyldimethylammonium bromide or mixture thereof is present in the fiber in an amount of 0.1-2.0% by weight of the dry fiber.

Claim 21. (Original) The method of Claim 16 in which the cellulose fiber is an unbleached kraft fiber.